

# Abstract

A preferred embodiment of the present invention comprises a software plug-in that allows a peripheral device to communicate via a host (e.g., a personal computer) with a remote server through a communications port. The plug-in is preferably downloaded from  
5 the remote server and allows the peripheral device to communicate with that server or other remote servers, and the remote servers are able to communicate and control the peripheral device without any additional software being installed to the host.